

## **Interview Activity**

An interview can be handled in many ways to successfully communicate the needed information and/or present the views of the person(s) being interviewed. In some situations, only the guest appears on camera and all the questions are posed from behind the camera. In other cases, both the interviewer and the guest appear together and the camera either stays on a medium two shot of both people or pans back and forth between them with the flow of conversation. The interview can also be shot using an “over the shoulder” set-up where the interviewer “sets up” the shoot facing the camera. Then the camera is placed over the interviewer’s shoulder and pointed at the subject. (Note: this last set-up requires the use of external mics. for both interviewer and guest for obvious reasons) In multiple interviewee situations, more than one camera is often used, and the camera shots follow the conversation.

In all of the situations mentioned above, it is best to shoot the interview in three shots. These are traditionally:

1. Introduction- Usually done with the interviewer in a medium shot facing the camera as if talking directly to the viewer. During this shot, the interviewer introduces the guest, location, and topic.
2. Conversation- The interviewer involves the guest in a conversation by asking questions designed to encourage them to talk a lot. (Avoid questions that can easily be answered with yes or no.)
3. The Sign Off- The interviewer thanks the guest and then turns to the camera, says goodbye to the viewer, and if required by the program design, returns the viewer to the anchor or directly introduces the next segment, etc.

In this activity, you are visiting a field trip location for the first time and will conduct an interview with a site director or guide. During this interview you want the person you are interviewing to share information about the site that the viewer will find informative and interesting. You also want the viewer to feel like “they are there” actually experiencing the site with you. Think about how point of view, image, setting, audio quality and other factors will convey this feeling to the viewer.

Formulate questions that you feel viewers would want to ask the person, and record the interview in whichever format you choose.

Decide before shooting, who will be the producer/director, the camera operator, the interviewer, and the person being interviewed.

Activity time: 15-30 min.